

MNC-7004

2 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- March

I. GENERAL

A. Planned exterior work at our new site was impeded this month by unprecedented rainfall, the heaviest on record since the 1880's. As a result, the two most important exterior tasks outstanding -- application of solar-reflective paint to the office block roof, and asphaltting of the parking lot, service road and delivery areas -- were not initiated until the last day of the month. This, plus the fact that the contractor has not completed interior finishing work as rapidly as hoped, has delayed planned work by our regional engineer and bureau technicians to install rooftop antennas, cabling, and telephone lines. The intended 21 April activation date for the facility will almost certainly slip because of these delays.

B. The communist party AKEL's campaign against U.S. "spy stations" in Cyprus, detailed in previous monthly reports, has now settled into a pattern of nearly pro forma occasional criticism, in speeches and newspaper comment, of the Cyprus Government's decision to permit the construction of a "U.S. espionage radio station" (or similar wording). Such references generally appear briefly within a list of complaints that includes Turkish "expansionism," the British sovereign bases, the alleged construction of U.S. bases in the "occupied areas," and the granting of facilities in Cyprus to NATO member-states. One point of interest is that in March, the socialist party EDEK for the first time also began to employ the term "spy stations" coined by AKEL in its own condemnations of government policy. As yet, however, EDEK has made no specific references to substantiate its use of the expression.

C. The bureau instituted summertime operating hours of 0500-2200 GMT on 29 March, reflecting Cyprus' change to Daylight Savings Time the previous evening.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Bureau operating hours were extended on 16 March, the deadline established by the Revolutionary Justice Organization for the execution of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, to permit coverage of late-night newscasts transmitted by the Phalangists' Voice of Lebanon, the only 24-hour radio station operating in that country. The bureau closed when it was established that VOL was offering no new information about Normandin's fate and all other monitored Lebanese radios had signed off for the night.

2. The bureau opened early on 21 March, with both members of its Persian team on hand, to cover the Iranian New Year addresses delivered by Ayatollah Khomeyni and President Khamene'i, following earlier coordination on coverage of the event with London Bureau.

3. Increasing tension between Greece and Turkey over disputed rights in the Aegean, with concomitant military alerts, prompted the bureau to extend its operating hours 27-29 March to ensure sign-on to sign-off coverage of Athens radio. Regularly scheduled coverage was resumed on 30 March when it was determined that the situation, while still unstable, no longer threatened immediate armed confrontation.

4. In accordance with a BBC-FBIS coordination meeting decision, the bureau assumed regular coverage of two Moscow Greek casts previously covered by BBC/London Bureau as of 29 March.

5. With Headquarters and BBC concurrence, the bureau dropped several casts from coverage following an extended productivity study. They include Kabul in Arabic and English, specific Cairo Voice of the Arabs casts, Tehran IRNA backstopping commitments, all but one cast transmitted by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, and the one cast monitored per day from both Doha and Dubayy, inherited from Gulf Bureau.

6. Tel Aviv Bureau and ELAAD covered the Turkish mainland press while our sole Turkish monitor took annual leave 10-26 March. Nicosia Bureau, meanwhile, covered both Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic and Moscow International Arabic casts for LD/BBC from 26 February to 4 March, due to BBC staffing difficulties and heavy coverage commitments.

B. Lateral Services

1. Appropriate Embassy personnel were alerted to a 7 March AFP item citing a report in the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD claiming that three foreign hostages in Lebanon had been killed when Syrian troops stormed a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Party in West Beirut. The report cited "intelligence units at the American Embassy in Beirut" as its sources.

2. In response to an Embassy request, the bureau processed and handcarried to the Deputy Chief of Mission the Cypriot Government spokesman's 19 March reply to Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas's comments about recent submissions on the Cyprus issue conveyed by UN envoys.

3. The Regional Security Officer and Marine Guards were alerted to a report in the 21 March edition of TA NEA, affiliated with the Socialist Party EDEK, noting that the party intended to stage an overnight demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy on 24-25 March to protest the U.S. Government's "pro-Turkish" attitude. Our alert prompted various precautionary actions on the part of the Embassy. The protest went off as planned, with no attendant disruptions.

C. Technical

1. The landlord of the building housing our current offices has now withdrawn his earlier consent to the long-term placement of a passive microwave reflector on the roof for use in our communications link to the Embassy from our new site. As a result, we have resumed our discussion with CYTA on the possibility of installing the reflector atop one of its stations. Prospects are good.

2. All maintenance and repair work on technical equipment to be installed in our new bureau has now been completed.

3. Equipment received: One passive reflector for use with microwave transmitter, from Headquarters.

III. Administration

A. Personnel

1. Bureau Chief [] departed the island on 18 March for STAT private travel and participation in the annual Bureau Chiefs Conference.

IV. Visits

A. [] assistant editor for news at the BBC Monitoring Service, visited the bureau 4-8 March for coordination and briefings. STAT

[] STAT
Acting Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for March 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	305320
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	131420
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1085

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	9260.00 min.	22260.00 min.	125.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

CHINA

Beijing in

Persian to Iran

0

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in
Arabic

21260

(Clandestine) Radio Iran in
Persian

280

(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in
Arabic

9230

(Clandestine) Voice of the People in
Arabic

1440

CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in
English

170

Nicosia Domestic Service in
Greek

11510

Nicosia Television Service in
English

320

Nicosia Television Service in
Greek

680

Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in
English

1630

Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA TIS
DHEFTERAS in

300

Greek

Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in
Greek

90

Nicosia I SIMERINI TIS DHEFTERAS in
Greek

0

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia I SIMERINI in Greek			2650
Nicosia KHARAVYI TIS DHEFTERAS in Greek			170
Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek			360
Nicosia O ANEXARTITOS in Greek			400
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS TIS DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			1460
Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in Greek			850
Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			2400
Nicosia THE CYPRUS WEEKLY IN English			1850
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	15690		
Cairo Television Service in Arabic	870		
Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	300		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		50510	
Cairo MENA in English		5640	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		20970	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	30980		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			3350
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			1780
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			750
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			470

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Athens KIRIAKATIKOS RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			0
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			520
IRAN			
Tehran International Service in Arabic	740		
Tehran International Service in Turkish	630		
Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	32690		
IRAQ			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	25400		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	18560		
Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic	7770		
Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic	600		
Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic			0
Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic			0
Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic			450
Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic			660
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	1250		
Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic	1060		

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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QATAR

Doha Domestic Service in
Arabic

0

TURKEY

Ankara YANKI in
Turkish

500

Istanbul BULVAR in
Turkish

370

Istanbul CUMHURIYET in
Turkish

2580

Istanbul DUNYA in
Turkish

0

Istanbul GUNAYDIN in
Turkish

440

Istanbul HURRIYET in
Turkish

3160

Istanbul MILLIYET in
Turkish

3730

Istanbul TERCUMAN in
Turkish

1920

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in
Persian

7550

Moscow in

Greek to Cyprus

730

Moscow in

Persian to Iran

4140

UNITED KINGDOM

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in
Arabic

1510